

REMARKS

Claims 2-12 are pending in this application, of which claim 1 has been amended. No new claims have been added. Claims 13 and 14 have been cancelled in this Response.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by JP 62-54162 or JP3-168650. Page 2 of the Office Action. Claims 2-12 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Page 3 of the Office Action.

Claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the recitations of claim 1. Thus, claims 2-12 should be allowed.

In view of above, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date. If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP



Shuji Oshizaki

Patent Agent

Registration No. 62,785

Telephone: (202) 822-1100

Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

SY/mt